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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACE-KEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yuriy SHEVCHENKO (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with resolution 46/48 of 9 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.

3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 14th to 18th and 22nd meetings, on 10 to 13, 16 and 20 November 1992 (see A/SPC/47/SR.14-18 and 22).

4. In connection with item 75, the Special Political Committee had before it the report of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/47/253), as well as the special report of that Committee (A/47/386) based on its initial discussion during August 1992 of the report of the Secretary-General entitled "An Agenda for Peace" (A/47/277-S/24111).

5. The Committee also had before it the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 46/48 of 9 December 1991 on the collection of information of peace-keeping training and similar activities (A/47/597), and the report of the Secretary-General submitted pursuant to paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 46/48 on the feasibility, including costs, of establishing an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme for national peace-keeping trainers (A/47/604).

6. Also before the Committee were the following documents:

(a) Letter dated 11 February 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the Declaration of the Council of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe on Non-Proliferation and Arms Transfers (A/47/89-S/23576);

(b) Letter dated 26 May 1992 from the representatives of Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Paraguay, Uruguay and Venezuela to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting guidelines for strengthening the capacity of the United Nations in the area of preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping (A/47/232-S/24025 and Corr.1);

(c) Letter dated 16 July 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to Secretary-General transmitting the Declaration on the Yugoslav crisis, adopted on 10 July 1992 by the Summit of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (A/47/335-S/24306);

(d) Letter dated 29 July 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Finland to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the "Helsinki Document 1992 - The Challenges of Change" (A/47/361-S/24370);

(e) Letter dated 17 August 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Czechoslovakia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, transmitting the decisions of the Committee of Senior Officials of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (A/47/392-S/24461).

7. At the 14th meeting, on 10 November 1992, the representative of Nigeria, in his capacity as the Chairman of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations, introduced the two reports of the Special Political Committee on Peace-keeping Operations (A/47/253 and A/47/386).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.7

8. At its 14th meeting, on 10 November 1992, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects" (A/SPC/47/L.7), sponsored by Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Nigeria and Poland.

9. At the 16th meeting, on 12 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced the draft resolution (A/SPC/47/L.7).

10. On 20 November, the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, submitted a statement (A/SPC/47/L.11) on the programme budget implications of the draft resolution.

11. At its 22nd meeting, on 20 November, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.7 without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.8

12. At its 14th meeting, on 10 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Protection of peace-keeping personnel" (A/SPC/47/L.8) sponsored by Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, Egypt, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal, the Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Poland, Portugal, the Russian Federation, Senegal, Singapore, Spain, Sweden, Tunisia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Uruguay.

13. At the same meeting, it was announced that India and Lesotho had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

14. At the 15th meeting, on 11 November, it was announced that El Salvador and Luxembourg had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

15. At the 16th meeting, on 12 November, it was announced that Belarus, Bolivia, Colombia, Croatia, the Niger, Peru, the Philippines and the United States of America had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

16. At the same meeting, the representative of Ukraine, on behalf of the sponsors, introduced the draft resolution (A/SPC/47/L.8). In the course of his introduction, he made oral clarifications with regard to paragraphs 7 and 8 of the draft resolution, stating that the text of those paragraphs should read as follows:

> "7. Recommends that, in appropriate cases, the Security Council might make it clear to the parties when authorizing a new peace-keeping operation ...";
>
> "8. Recommends that the Security Council continue, in collaboration with the Secretary-General, to collect... ."

17. At the 17th meeting, on 13 November, it was announced that Costa Rica, the Republic of Korea and Romania had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

18. At the 22nd meeting, on 20 November, it was announced that Algeria, Kenya, Mauritiana, Samoa, and Venezuela had joined as sponsors of the draft resolution.

19. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.8 without a vote (see para. 20, draft resolution II).

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

20. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

DRAFT RESOLUTION I

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling, in particular, its resolution 46/48 of 9 December 1991,

Welcoming the progress made by the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations during its recent sessions,

Convinced that peace-keeping operations are enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that the peacemaking activities of the Secretary-General and of organs of the United Nations, which are actions to bring hostile parties to agreement, essentially through such peaceful means as those foreseen in Chapter VI of the Charter of the United Nations, constitute an essential function of the United Nations and are among the important means for the prevention, containment and resolution of disputes and for maintaining international peace and security,

Taking into account that increasing activities in the field of United Nations peace-keeping require both increasing and better managed human, financial and material resources for the Organization,

Aware of the extremely difficult financial situation of the United Nations and its peace-keeping operations, and of the heavy burden on the troop contributors, especially those from developing countries,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization, 1/ and, in particular, his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace", 2/

Taking note also of the useful exchange of views on "An Agenda for Peace" during the intersessional meetings devoted to that report, 3/ and of the Special Committee's role in carrying out further analysis and consideration, in particular as regards peace-keeping operations,

Recalling its debate on agenda item 10 during the forty-seventh session, and in particular the views expressed by Member States on "An Agenda for Peace",

Recalling also that in the statement by the President of the Security Council of 29 October 1992, on "An Agenda for Peace", 4/ the Council expressed support for, inter alia, the suggestions contained in paragraphs 51 and 52 of the report of the Secretary-General,

Having examined the reports of the Special Committee, 5/

1. Takes note of the reports of the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations;

I. Resources

2. Notes that only a small number of Member States have to date responded to the questionnaire issued by the Secretary-General on 21 May 1990 pursuant to General Assembly resolution 44/49 of 8 December 1989 to identify those personnel, material and technical resources and services which Member States would be ready, in principle, to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping operations, and urges Member States that have not yet replied to do so;

3. Requests the Secretary-General to explore the possibility of improving the formulation of his questionnaire of 21 May 1990, and to recirculate the questionnaire on a regular basis;

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/47/1).

2/ A/47/277-S/24111.

3/ See A/47/386.

4/ S/24728.

5/ A/47/253 and A/47/386.

4. Encourages the Secretary-General to consider circulating a separate questionnaire on civil police and civilian experts which Member States would be ready to contribute to United Nations peace-keeping operations;

5. Urges Member States to transmit promptly to the Secretary-General their replies to those questionnaires;

6. Recommends that the guidelines in the current questionnaire be developed and used subsequently in the "Notes for Guidance" in order to achieve a standard organization for type units;

7. Calls upon the Secretariat to consult with and assist Member States in completing the questionnaires, with a view to ensuring commonality of approach and understanding;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to promote, based on the questionnaires, the establishment on a voluntary basis among Member States of a pool of resources, including military units, military observers, civil police, key staff personnel and humanitarian matériel, that might be made readily available to United Nations peace-keeping operations, subject to national approval;

9. Encourages Member States to inform the Secretary-General of their willingness to provide forces or capabilities to the United Nations for peace-keeping operations and the type of units or capabilities that might be available at short notice, subject to overriding national defence requirements and the approval of the Governments providing them;

10. Encourages the Secretariat and those Member States which have indicated such willingness to enter into direct dialogue so as to enable the Secretary-General to know with greater precision what forces or capabilities might be made available to the United Nations for particular peace-keeping operations, and on what time-scale;

11. Stresses the need for the United Nations to be given resources commensurate with its growing responsibilities in the area of peace-keeping, particularly with reference to the resources needed for the start-up phases of such operations;

II. Finances

12. Recalls that the financing of peace-keeping operations is the collective responsibility of all Member States in accordance with Article 17, paragraph 2, of the Charter of the United Nations, and reiterates its call upon all Member States to pay their assessed contributions in full and on time, and encourages those States which can do so to make voluntary contributions acceptable to the Secretary-General;

13. Reiterates the need to maintain the accepted principles and guidelines on the financing of all United Nations peace-keeping operations;

14. Stresses the need to delegate increased financial and administrative authority to Force Commanders, or Special Representatives for multi-component missions, in order to increase the missions' capacity to adjust to new situations and specific requirements;

15. Encourages consideration in the appropriate forums of the establishment of a reserve fund or other appropriate arrangement to improve the start-up financing of peace-keeping operations;

16. Also stresses the importance of the need to reimburse the outstanding dues of troop-contributing States;

17. Considers it important that, in establishing future peace-keeping operations, financial questions should continue to be studied seriously, particularly at the planning stage, in order to ensure the most cost-effective and efficient conduct of such operations and strict control of their expenditures;

18. Also considers it important to contain financial expenditures of peace-keeping operations by determining, during initial planning, the levels of personnel, materials and technical equipment required, by early definition of the sequence of each operation, and by improved estimating, during the planning stage, of operational costs;

19. Acknowledges the competence of the General Assembly for the appropriation and apportionment of the costs of United Nations peace-keeping operations, and also acknowledges the importance of the Security Council members being informed of the cost implications of such operations;

20. Emphasizes the importance of making, from the standpoint of sources of financing, a clear distinction between peace-keeping operations themselves, and the provision to States and parties to a conflict, at their request, of other assistance from the specialized agencies and departments of the United Nations not an integral part of the operation;

21. Considers that, in view of the critical financial situation of the United Nations, as described in the report of the Secretary-General, 6/ the issue of supplementing diversified financial resources, on terms acceptable to the Secretary-General, to the assessed contributions should be further studied in all the appropriate forums;

6/ A/46/600/Add.2.

22. Recognizes the need for an augmentation of the strength and capability of military staff serving in the Secretariat and of civilian staff dealing more generally with peace-keeping matters in the Secretariat;

23. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly on this subject as soon as possible; in that report he might consider the establishment in the Secretariat of an enhanced peace-keeping planning staff and an operations centre in order to deal with the growing complexity of initial planning and control of peace-keeping operations in the field;

24. Urges Governments of host countries to take all necessary measures to create conditions which will permit United Nations forces to be kept to a minimum, and equally urges them to provide, in accordance with their capacity, the greatest possible logistic and material support for these operations;

III. Organization and effectiveness

25. Invites the Secretary-General, as Chief Administrative Officer, to consider the necessary strengthening and reform of the Secretariat units dealing with peace-keeping operations, so that they can deal effectively and efficiently with the planning, launching, ongoing management and termination of peace-keeping operations;

26. Welcomes the creation of the Department of Peace-keeping Operations and invites the Secretary-General to consider the creation of a unified, integrated structure within the Department to establish clear lines of responsibility and accountability, which are essential for the effective and efficient management of peace-keeping operations; in that regard, it requests the Secretary-General to consider whether relevant parts of the Field Operations Division should be transferred to that Department;

27. Also welcomes, in the light of the increasing use of civilian police in peace-keeping operations, the Secretary-General's decision to appoint a Senior Police Adviser;

28. Requests the Secretariat to consider, in due course, the utility of training guidelines for civilian specialized units, including civilian police;

29. Encourages all Member States to organize national or regional training programmes, to include cross-cultural education and relevant international humanitarian law in such programmes, and to promote cooperation with other national and regional peace-keeping training programmes;

30. Takes note with appreciation of the Secretary-General's report on the feasibility, including costs, of establishing an annual peace-keeping fellowship programme for national peace-keeping trainers to be administered by

the Secretariat, 7/ and the information he has gathered on national peace-keeping training and similar activities, and requests him to issue a regularly updated list based upon national submissions;

31. Invites the Secretary-General to institute proper arrangements and procedures for providing additional personnel on a short-term basis in order to ensure that the Secretariat can respond effectively and efficiently to fluctuations in its workload, particularly when new operations are planned and launched;

32. Reiterates its invitation to the Secretary-General to consider identifying a focal point for contacts by Member States seeking information on all facets, including operational and administrative matters, of ongoing and planned peace-keeping operations;

33. Also invites the Secretary-General to review, with a view to streamlining procedures and enhancing effectiveness, the applicable United Nations financial and administrative regulations concerning peace-keeping operations;

34. Further invites the Secretary-General to consider means whereby Special Representatives/Force Commanders and other key personnel are identified at the earliest possible time;

35. Recommends that the Secretary-General conduct a study on how to prevent duplication of responsibilities of civilian and military staff personnel in the field, especially in the areas of supply, communication and transportation, and how to improve their interaction and cooperation in fulfilling the tasks assigned to them;

36. Invites the Secretary-General immediately to envisage the adoption of all necessary arrangements to define logistics doctrine and standard operational procedures combining civilian and military aspects in order to achieve the greatest possible efficiency and cost-effectiveness, and urges Member States to cooperate with the Secretary-General in this exercise;

37. Encourages the Secretary-General to invite Member States to provide qualified military and civilian personnel to assist the Secretariat in the planning and management of peace-keeping operations;

38. Expresses its appreciation to the Secretary-General for reporting on peace-keeping operations and requests him to report periodically on the performance of all peace-keeping operations;

39. Requests the Secretary-General to consider establishing a training programme for key staff personnel of peace-keeping operations with a view to

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7/ A/47/604.

creating a pool of trained personnel with knowledge of the United Nations system and its working procedures;

40. Requests the Secretariat immediately to make all necessary arrangements for the reissue of The Blue Helmets 8/ in 1995;

41. Recommends that the Secretariat continue the existing practice of informal consultations with contributing States more directly interested, as appropriate, and that, especially for particularly large or complex operations, these informal consultations be held on a more frequent and regular basis, with a view to providing effective follow-up and support to the operation from its initial stage to its termination;

IV. Development of peace-keeping

42. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on ways of strengthening the capacity of the United Nations for preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and peace-keeping within the framework and provisions of the Charter, as requested by the Security Council Summit of Heads of State and Government held on 31 January 1992;

43. Considers that the concept of preventive peace-keeping, that is, the deployment of peace-keeping operations as a deterrent to a possible aggressor, requires development and clarification as a helpful tool for the United Nations in its pursuit of preventive diplomacy;

44. Believes that the Secretary-General should have the means to dispatch his own missions, with the consent of the parties concerned, where necessary in cooperation with regional organizations, and to evaluate the situation and develop his peacemaking activities as appropriate;

45. Further believes that the Declaration on Fact-finding by the United Nations in the Field of the Maintenance of International Peace and Security approved by the General Assembly at its forty-sixth session in resolution 46/59 of 9 December 1991, is a valuable contribution to the Organization's preventive functions;

46. Encourages Member States to provide the Secretary-General with full and up-to-date information concerning tensions that could escalate into an international conflict;

47. Believes, in this connection, that the closest attention needs to be paid to the issue of applying the preventive potential of the United Nations more broadly, and considers that the responsibilities of the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Secretary-General in this regard should be strengthened in accordance with the framework and provisions of the Charter;

8/ United Nations publication, Sales No. 90.J.18.

48. Recognizes the importance of according special consideration to mechanisms and means of deterring a potential aggressor and procedures for a prompt and effective response to acts of aggression and threats to international peace and security, in accordance with the provisions of the Charter;

49. Stresses that the parties to a conflict have an obligation to respect the international status of United Nations operations and to refrain from encouraging or taking actions capable of disrupting or impeding United Nations personnel in the performance of their peace-keeping, peacemaking, or humanitarian functions, in accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations 9/ and status-of-forces agreements;

50. Urges all Governments of host countries and parties to a conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure the safety and security of United Nations personnel and to prevent any attempts on the life and health of those personnel;

51. Considers that, in the light of the ever-expanding role of peace-keeping operations, it is important that the United Nations, from planning through implementation of each operation, and on an ongoing basis, assess the risks to the safety and security of its units and personnel and take all necessary measures, including the elaboration of appropriate guidelines and procedures, to ensure the highest possible levels of that safety and security;

52. Encourages all regional and subregional organizations to promote the maintenance of peace, security and stability in their respective regions and, where applicable, work in cooperation with the United Nations, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter, contributing to peace-keeping operations there;

53. Emphasizes that any deployment of peace-keeping operations should be accompanied, as appropriate, by an intensification of coordinated political efforts by the States concerned, by regional organizations and by the United Nations itself as part of the political process for a peaceful settlement of the crisis situation or conflict in accordance with Chapters VI and VIII of the Charter;

54. Believes that consideration might be given, over the next few years, to the elaboration of a universally acceptable text for a declaration on United Nations peace-keeping operations, which would include the main organizational and practical aspects involved and would contain recommendations on ways of enhancing the effectiveness of such operations;

9/ Resolution 22 A (I).

55. Takes note of its establishment of an informal working group, open to all Member States, on "An Agenda for Peace";

* * *

56. Recommends that, should any of the proposals contained in the present resolution result in budgetary implications for the biennium 1992-1993, such additional costs should be accommodated within the appropriation level approved by the General Assembly in resolution 46/186 A of 20 December 1991;

57. Decides that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects;

58. Encourages the Special Committee to consider holding an intersessional meeting to consider the recommendations relating to peace-keeping contained in "An Agenda for Peace" at the earliest opportunity;

59. Requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

60. Invites Member States to submit any further observations and suggestions on peace-keeping operations to the Secretary-General by 1 March 1993, outlining proposals on specific items in order to allow for more detailed consideration by the Special Committee, with particular emphasis on practical proposals to make these operations more effective;

61. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare, within existing resources, a compilation of the above-mentioned observations and suggestions and to submit it to the Special Committee by 30 March 1993;

62. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peace-keeping operations in all their aspects".

DRAFT RESOLUTION II

Protection of peace-keeping personnel

The General Assembly,

Acknowledging the vital importance of the involvement of United Nations personnel in preventive diplomacy, peacemaking, peace-keeping, peace-building and humanitarian operations,

Noting with grave concern the growing number of fatalities and injuries among United Nations peace-keeping and other personnel resulting from deliberate hostile actions in areas of deployment,

Bearing in mind the Secretary-General's concern over the safety of peace-keeping personnel expressed in his report entitled "An Agenda for Peace", 10/

Recalling its resolution 46/48 of 9 December 1991 and other relevant resolutions, as well as the recommendations contained in the report of the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations, 11/

Having examined the special report of the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations, 3/

Noting relevant resolutions of the Security Council,

1. Pays tribute to the courage, commitment and idealism of peace-keeping and other United Nations personnel in the field, who often work in difficult and dangerous circumstances;

2. Resolutely condemns any hostile actions against United Nations personnel, including deliberate attacks against United Nations peace-keeping operations, which have resulted in a disturbing number of casualties;

3. Strongly demands that host countries and all parties to a conflict take all measures possible to ensure the safety of peace-keeping and other United Nations personnel;

4. Reminds Governments of host countries of their responsibility for the safety of peace-keeping and other United Nations personnel on their territory;

5. Urges the Secretary-General to conclude, if possible at the earliest stage of a peace-keeping operation, a Status of Forces Agreement with the parties concerned, emphasizing their obligations to respect the international status of United Nations operations in accordance with the Convention on the Privileges and Immunities of the United Nations; 9/

6. Requests the Secretary-General, in planning future peace-keeping operations and in making recommendations for their deployment, to give particular attention to adequate protection for peace-keeping and other United Nations personnel;

7. Recommends that, in appropriate cases the Security Council might make it clear to the parties when authorizing a new peace-keeping operation that it is prepared to take further steps in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations should the purpose of the operation systematically be frustrated by provocative attacks against United Nations personnel;

10/ A/47/277-S/24111, sect. VIII.

11/ A/47/253.

8. Recommends that the Security Council continue, in collaboration with the Secretary-General, to collect and, where appropriate, to disseminate reliable information about attacks on the safety of peace-keeping and other United Nations personnel;

9. Requests the Special Committee on Peace-Keeping Operations to study other measures to ensure the safety of peace-keeping and other United Nations personnel and to report thereon to the General Assembly;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to address the question of the safety of United Nations personnel in his periodic reports on ongoing peace-keeping operations.

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QUESTIONS RELATING TO INFORMATION

Report of the Special Political Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Yuriy SHEVCHENKO (Ukraine)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The item entitled "Questions relating to information" was included in the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly in accordance with Assembly resolution 46/73 of 11 December 1991.

2. At its 3rd plenary meeting, on 18 September 1992, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include the item in its agenda and to allocate it to the Special Political Committee.

3. The Special Political Committee considered the item at its 18th to 23rd meetings, held between 16 and 20 November 1992 (see A/SPC/47/SR.18-23).

4. The Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on Information; 1/

(b) Report of the Secretary-General (A/47/462 and Corr.1);

(c) Letter dated 6 February 1992 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and transmitting the documents of the Sixth Islamic Summit Conference, held at Dakar from 9 to 11 December 1991 (A/47/88-S/23563);

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/47/21).

(d) Letter dated 6 March 1992 from the Permanent Representative of Jamaica to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and transmitting the Communiqué of the Third Inter-sessional Meeting of the Conference of Heads of Government of the Caribbean Community, held at Kingston on 19 February 1992 (A/47/120).

5. At its 2nd meeting, on 9 October, the Committee decided to establish an open-ended working group on questions relating to information to be chaired by one of the Committee's Vice-Chairmen.

6. At its 18th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee heard introductory statements by the Under-Secretary-General for Public Information of the Secretariat and by the Acting Chairman of the Committee on Information. The Director of the Liaison Office of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization also made a statement (see A/SPC/47/SR.18).

II. CONSIDERATION OF PROPOSALS

A. Draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.9 and L.10

7. At the 19th meeting, on 17 November, the Chairman of the Special Political Committee drew attention to two draft resolutions submitted by the Acting Chairman of the Committee on Information on behalf of its Bureau and circulated as documents A/SPC/47/L.9 and L.10 on 13 November.

8. At the 23rd meeting, on 20 November, the Chairman of the Special Political Committee drew the Committee's attention to document A/SPC/47/L.13, which contained the programme budget implications of draft resolution A/SPC/47/L.10.

9. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolutions A/SPC/47/L.9 and L.10*, without a vote (see para. 11, resolutions A and B).

B. Candidacy for membership in the Commitee on Information

10. At the 23rd meeting, on 20 November, the Chairman drew attention to paragraph 80 of the report of the Committee on Information, 1/ in which the Committee on Information decided, by consensus, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of a draft decision to increase the membership of the Committee on Information from 79 to 81 members and to appoint the Republic of Korea and Senegal as members of the Committee. At the same meeting, the Special Political Committee decided, without a vote, to recommend to the General Assembly the adoption of that decision (see para. 12).

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* Reissued for technical reasons.

III. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL COMMITTEE

11. The Special Political Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Questions relating to information

A

Information in service of humanity

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information, 2/

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, 3/

Urges that all countries, organizations of the United Nations system as a whole and all others concerned, reaffirming their commitment to the principles of the Charter of the United Nations and to the principles of freedom of the press and freedom of information, as well as to those of the independence, pluralism and diversity of the media, deeply concerned by the disparities existing between developed and developing countries and the consequences of every kind arising from those disparities that affect the capability of the public, private or other media and individuals in developing countries to disseminate information and communicate their views and their cultural and ethnical values through endogenous cultural production, as well as to ensure the diversity of sources of and their free access to information, recognizing the call in this context for what in the United Nations and at various international forums has been termed "a new world information and communication order, seen as an evolving and continuous process", should:

(a) Cooperate and interact with a view to reducing existing disparities in information flows at all levels by increasing assistance for the development of communication infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with due regard for their needs and the priorities attached to such areas by those countries, and in order to enable them and the public, private or other media in developing countries to develop their own information and communication policies freely and independently and increase the participation of media and individuals in the communication process, and to ensure a free flow of information at all levels;

2/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 21 (A/47/21).

3/ A/47/462 and Corr.1.

(b) Ensure for journalists the free and effective performance of their professional tasks and condemn resolutely all attacks against them;

(c) Provide support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes for broadcasters and journalists from public, private and other media in developing countries;

(d) Enhance regional efforts and cooperation among developing countries, as well as cooperation between developed and developing countries, to strengthen communication capacities and to improve the media infrastructure and communication technology in the developing countries, especially in the areas of training and dissemination of information;

(e) Aim, in addition to bilateral cooperation, at providing all possible support and assistance to the developing countries and their media, public, private or other, with due regard to their interests and needs in the field of information and to action already adopted within the United Nations system, including:

(i) The development of the human and technical resources that are indispensable for the improvement of information and communication systems in developing countries and support for the continuation and strengthening of practical training programmes, such as those already operating under both public and private auspices throughout the developing world;

(ii) The creation of conditions that will enable developing countries and their media, public, private or other, to have, by using their national and regional resources, the communication technology suited to their national needs, as well as the necessary programme material, especially for radio and television broadcasting;

(iii) Assistance in establishing and promoting telecommunication links at the subregional, regional and interregional levels, especially among developing countries;

(iv) The facilitation, as appropriate, of access by the developing countries to advanced communication technology available on the open market;

(f) Provide full support for the International Programme for the Development of Communication of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, 4/ which should support both public and private media.

4/ See United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Records of the General Conference, Twenty-first Session, vol. I, Resolutions, sect. III.4, resolution 4/21.

B

United Nations public information policies and activities

The General Assembly,

Taking note of the comprehensive and important report of the Committee on Information, 2/

Also taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on questions relating to information, 3/

Reaffirming the primary role of the General Assembly in elaborating, coordinating and harmonizing United Nations policies and activities in the field of information,

Also reaffirming that the Secretary-General should ensure that the activities of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat, as the focal point of the public information tasks of the United Nations, are strengthened and improved, keeping in view the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the priority areas defined by the General Assembly and the recommendations of the Committee on Information,

1. Decides to consolidate the role of the Committee on Information as its main subsidiary body mandated to make recommendations relating to the work of the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat;

2. Calls upon the Secretary-General, in respect of United Nations public information policies and activities, to implement the following recommendations in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, and in this regard to ensure that the Department of Public Information:

(a) Continues to disseminate information about the activities of the United Nations in coordination with the information services of other relevant agencies in accordance with the United Nations medium-term plan, the programme budget and their relevant revisions, pertaining, inter alia, to:

(i) International peace and security;

(ii) Disarmament;

(iii) Peace-keeping operations and peacemaking;

(iv) Decolonization and the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the light of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

(v) The promotion and protection of human rights and in that context the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights;

(vi) The elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;

(vii) The advancement of status of women and their role in society;

(viii) The promotion of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;

(ix) Problems of economic and social development, as well as international economic cooperation aimed at resolving external debt problems;

(x) The least developed countries;

(xi) The environment and development;

(xii) The elimination of foreign occupation;

(xiii) The campaign against terrorism in all its forms in line with General Assembly resolution 40/61 of 9 December 1985;

(xiv) International efforts against drug abuse and illicit drug trafficking;

(xv) Crime prevention and criminal justice;

(xvi) Support for the New Agenda of the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development 1986-1990 and for the tremendous efforts of the African countries aimed at recovery and development, as well as the positive response by the international community to alleviate the serious economic situation prevailing in Africa;

(xvii) International efforts towards the total eradication of apartheid and support for the establishment of a united, non-racial and democratic South Africa and, where necessary, the role of the United Nations in this context;

(xviii) United Nations activities pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and the question of Palestine in particular, also including current developments in that region and the ongoing peace process;

(b) Provides the necessary level of information support for the activities of the United Nations in situations requiring immediate and special response;

(c) Continues its efforts at promoting an informed understanding of the work and purposes of the United Nations system among the peoples of the world and at strengthening the positive image of the system as a whole;

(d) Continues its efforts to ensure timely production and dissemination of its mandated publications, in particular the UN Chronicle, the Yearbook of the United Nations, Development Forum and Africa Recovery, and continues to

maintain consistent editorial independence and accuracy in reporting all the material that it produces, taking necessary measures to ensure that its output contains adequate, objective and equitable information about issues before the Organization, reflecting divergent opinions where they occur;

(e) Submits a report on continuous and major publications to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session, providing the following details:

(i) The list of publications and their circulation figures;

(ii) Their cost;

(iii) The original language versions and the languages into which the publications were translated;

(iv) Target audiences, including, where possible, the intended end-use of the specific products;

(f) Continues its briefings, assistance and orientation programmes for broadcasters and journalists from developing countries focused on United Nations-related issues;

(g) Provides, on the basis of its activities, information to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization about new forms of cooperation, at the regional and subregional levels, for the training of media professionals and for the improvement of the information and communication infrastructures of developing countries;

(h) Continues its policies of cooperation with all agencies of the United Nations system, in particular with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization;

(i) Continues its policies of cooperation with the news agencies in and of the developing countries, in particular the News Agencies Pool of Non-Aligned Countries;

3. Requests the Secretary-General, in the light of the increasing demands now placed on the Department of Public Information in relation to media coverage of United Nations activities, to provide at the fifteenth session of the Committee on Information an assessment regarding:

(a) Any measures considered appropriate to ensure that the working facilities provided for the media are fully adequate to meet present and future needs and, in this context, to consult with the Bureau of the Committee, spokespersons of the regional groups, the Group of 77 and China, in relation to the implementation of any significant measures in this regard;

(b) The consideration of a greater framework of coordination within the Department of Public Information in relation to the provision of facilities

and services for the media, such as the work of the Executive Media Service and the provision of accreditation services;

4. Requests, in this context, the Secretary-General to direct the Publications Board to develop criteria and review all publications and proposals for publications to ensure, inter alia, that each publication fulfils an identifiable mandate and need, is timely, does not duplicate other publications inside or outside the United Nations system, and is cost-effective, and that before the publication is printed, it satisfies the criteria on the basis of which it was authorized, and to report thereon to the Committee on Information;

5. Reaffirms the importance attached by Member States to the role of United Nations information centres in effectively and comprehensively disseminating information about United Nations activities and the optimization of the resources allocated to the Department of Public Information;

6. Calls upon the Secretary-General to submit a detailed and comprehensive report on his plan of integrating United Nations information centres with other United Nations offices, while maintaining the functional autonomy of the United Nations information centres and emphasizing that they should be fully operational, as provided for in relevant resolutions, to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session for its consideration of the different options available in this regard; in this context, consultations should take place on this matter through the informal mechanism composed of the Bureau of the Committee on Information and the spokespersons of regional groups, the Group of 77 and China, as was established in paragraph 1 (s) of General Assembly resolution 46/73 B of 11 December 1991;

7. Reaffirms the role of the General Assembly in relation to the opening of new United Nations information centres and invites the Secretary-General, as well, to make such recommendations as he may judge necessary regarding the establishment and location of new United Nations information centres;

8. Calls upon the Secretary-General to study ways and means of redressing differences in the allocation of resources, in particular the differences of support, in relation to the financing of United Nations information centres in various countries and to report to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session;

9. Notes the substantial contribution by the Government of Poland and requests the Secretary-General to finalize, in consultation with the Polish authorities, arrangements for a United Nations information component in Warsaw;

10. Calls upon the Secretary-General to implement fully its recommendations contained in resolution 46/73 B, including paragraphs 1 (l) and (m), regarding the establishment of a United Nations information centre in Sana'a, Yemen, as well as the reactivation of the United Nations information centre in Tehran and the enhancing of the information centres in Dar es Salaam, Dhaka and Bujumbura;

11. Encourages enhanced cooperation between the Department of Public Information and the University for Peace in Costa Rica as a focal point of promoting United Nations activities and disseminating United Nations information materials;

12. Takes note of the requests by Bulgaria, Gabon and Haiti for information components;

13. Calls upon the Secretary-General to enhance the efficiency of and ensure full programme delivery of all segments currently produced by all regional radio units in the Department of Public Information;

14. Encourages the Department of Public Information to take into account, especially in the area of electronic media production, the various standards and systems used around the world, bearing in mind the need for harmonization and efficiency;

15. Calls upon the Secretary-General, as of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, to make every effort as a matter of particular urgency to create conditions and to make them more conducive to achieving parity by appropriate utilization of existing equipment in the press coverage of meetings in English and French;

16. Decides, as of the forty-seventh session of the General Assembly, on the publication in the Arabic and Spanish languages, after each annual session of the General Assembly, of the press release containing the resolutions and decisions adpoted by the General Assembly and the results of the voting through reallocation of resources from the budget of the Department of Public Information;

17. Invites Member States to submit to the Secretary-General, by 1 January 1993, observations and suggestions on ways and means of furthering the development of communications infrastructures and capabilities in developing countries, with a view to consolidating recent experience in the field of international cooperation aimed at enabling them to develop their own information and communication capacities, freely and independently, and further requests the Secretary-General to report thereon to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session;

18. Decides on procedural grounds to refer to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration resolution 26 C/resolution 4.3 adopted by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its twenty-sixth session and contained in the relevant note by the Secretary-General; 5/

5/ A/SPC/46/3.

19. Requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session in 1993 on the results of the implementation of a system-wide information programme for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development;

20. Also requests the Secretary-General to report to the Committee on Information at its fifteenth session in 1993 and to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session in 1993, on the activities of the Department of Public Information and on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the present resolution as well as in resolution 46/73;

21. Requests the Committee on Information to report to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session;

22. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its forty-eighth session the item entitled "Questions relating to information".

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12. The Special Political Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft decision:

DRAFT DECISION

Increase in the membership of the Committee on Information

The General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Special Political Committee, decides:

(a) To increase the membership of the Committee on Information from seventy-nine to eighty-one members;

(b) To appoint the Republic of Korea and Senegal as members of the Committee on Information.